

REMARKS

In the aforesaid Office Action, claims 1-16 were acted upon. Claims 2, 3, 10-12 and 16 have been cancelled and no new claim has been added, leaving claims 1, 4-9 and 13-15 for consideration.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S.P. 4,159,250 - Schnell. Schnell appears to show a dialyzer having a stack (24) of membranes and membrane supports parallely positioned and enclosed by a casing (22). Dialysate and blood enter the casing through openings (52, 54), the dialysate entering through ports (52, 60), flowing through the stack of membrane and membrane support plates, and exiting through port (50). The casing (22) appears to be adapted to maintain a desired pressure against the stack.

Claim 1 has been amended to comprising first and second housing members connectable together to form an open-sided recess adapted to slidably receive a filter unit, as shown in Figs. 4 and 7, the filter unit being slidable edge-wise into and out of the recess formed by the interconnection of two housing members.

It appears that the filter units (stack 24) of Schnell are sealed in a closed casing so as to be maintained under a selected pressure. Accordingly, it appears that Schnell fails to show, or suggest, the arrangement defined in amended claim 1, and that claim 1 should be deemed allowable over Schnell.

Claims 4 and 5 have been rejected as unpatentable over USP 2,143,270 - Huber in view of USP 5,292,432 - Jainek. Jainek shows a filter element (17) fixed between two housing parts (10, 11). Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to depend from claim 1 and therefore are believed to be allowable through dependency.

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as anticipated by Schnell. Claim 6, as amended, depends from claim 1 and would appear to be allowable, at least through dependency.

Claim 1 stands further rejected under U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by USP 2,143,102 - Huber. Huber appears to show a series of screen frames (17, 18) disposed in a pot-like casing (14). The casing is enclosed. As noted above, claim 1 is now limited to the housing members of the filtration module of the present invention forming an open-sided recess adapted to slidably receive the filter unit and the filter unit is limited to being slidable edge-wise into and out of the recess.

Inasmuch as Huber fails to disclose, or suggest, the arrangement of amended claim 1, it appears that claim 1 is now well removed from being anticipated, or rendered obvious, by Huber, and that claim 1 should be deemed patentable thereover.

Claim 6 has also been rejected as anticipated by Huber. As amended, claim 6 depends from claim 1 and would appear to be allowable, at least through dependency.

Claims 7, 8, and 13-15 stand rejected on the same basis as claims 1-4 and 6. Claims 7, 8 and 13-15 all depend directly or

ultimately from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable, at least through dependency.

Claim 9 has been amended in much the same manner as claim 1 and is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons mentioned above.

In summary, claims 1, 4-9, and 13-15 are believed to be in condition for allowance, which is most respectfully requested.

In the course of review, it was noted that the "support structure S", referred to on page 15, line 6 of the specification, was labeled "5" in Fig. 8 (three instances), rather than "S". A replacement sheet for Fig. 8 is submitted herewith.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



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